

**ELICITING HCV-SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES****ABSTRACT**

Described herein is a method of eliciting antibodies and neutralizing of binding  
5 antibodies against a hepatitis C virus (HCV) E1E2 or E2 antigen using HCV E2 or HCV  
E1E2 polypeptides and/or HCV E2 or E1E2 polynucleotides. Elicitation of anti-E2  
antibodies and anti-E2 NOB antibodies can be used, *inter alia*, to provide model systems  
to optimize anti-E2 antibody responses and/or anti-E2 NOB antibody responses to HCV  
and to provide prophylactic or therapeutic treatment against HCV infection.

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